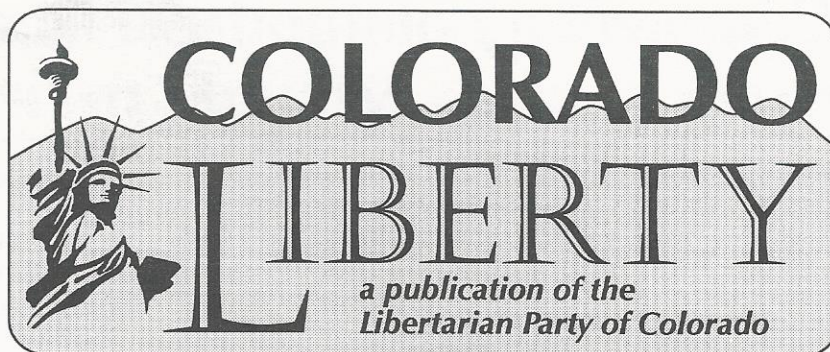


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<i>Happy holidays, everyone!</i>	



VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 1996

Erickson Is Top LPC Performer; Browne/Jorgensen Get 1/2%

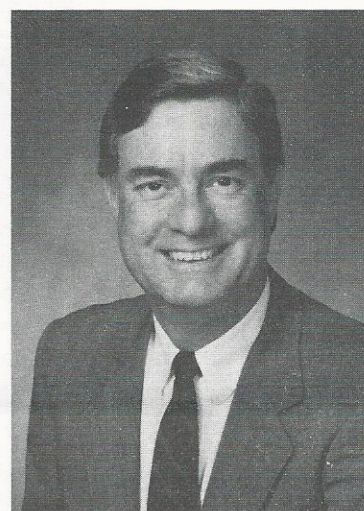
by Ron Bain, Colorado Liberty Editor

Brian Erickson, a Libertarian running in a non-partisan race for the District G seat on the RTD Board of Directors, nearly scored an upset victory in the 1996 general election. Erickson finished second in a field of three, with 32.6% of the vote. That might be the highest vote percentage ever attained by a Colorado Libertarian.

Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen, representing the Libertarian Party at the top of the national ticket, scored a fourth place finish nationally with .5% of the popular vote, or approximately 463,000 votes. That figure compares favorably to the vote totals attained by all prior Libertarian presidential candidates except Ed Clark. In 1980, Clark got 921,000 votes, or about .9% of the popular vote.

"We have to start tomorrow, building a larger Libertarian Party," Browne stated in a "concession" speech on election night. "We have to elevate the party to the next level."

Browne's vote represents a 63% increase in votes over the LP's



see Erickson Leads LPC Field, page 6

RTD candidate Brian Erickson

Election Results for Colorado

Candidate(s)	Race/District	Vote Total	Percentage	Ranking
Browne/Jorgensen	President & Vice President			
Nationally		~463,000	.5%	4th
In Colorado		12,385	.8%	5th
Richard Combs	US Congress/1st	5,656	2.9%	3rd
W. Earl Allen	US Congress/2nd	5,721	2.2%	4th
Kevin Wilkerson	Colorado House/11	1,740	5.4%	3rd
Chuck Wright	Colorado House/13	1,139	3.6%	3rd
Doug Newman	Colorado House/42	667	5.0%	3rd
Dan Cochran	Colorado House/51	1,938	7.5%	3rd
Doug Anderson	RTD/District A	7,633	22.6%	2nd
David Aitken	RTD/District A	2,599	7.6%	5th
Brian Erickson	RTD/District G	14,676	32.6%	2nd
Carol Hill	Lake County Commission/2	544	22.3%	3rd

Commentary on the 1996 Election from...

Harry Browne

"I want to express my deep gratitude to Libertarians all over America for your hard work and dedication in taking our message as far and wide as possible, for the many kindnesses you have shown Pamela and me over the past two years, and for the confidence you placed in me to carry the Libertarian message to the public.

"Based on the media coverage received, we far outpaced the other candidates. We apparently received about 1/18th of Ross Perot's vote total, while getting less than 1/100th of his media coverage. We got roughly the same vote as Ralph Nader, while receiving less than a fifth of his media attention. Evaluating our performance this way, it was even better when measured against the coverage given Clinton and Dole. And we far outpolled all the other small parties.

"For a \$3 million campaign and a party with 20,000 members, we achieved a great deal. But it's obvious we'll never break into the big leagues with a \$3 million campaign.

"The task ahead of us is clear: we have to create a party so big, so strong, so well-financed that in the year 2000 no one can ignore us. We have to make an enormous splash before and throughout the next election year, so that the media will have to give us the same attention and respect they give to the two old parties. We have to be so well known to the public that the Republicans and Democrats can't hold a debate without us. And if they decide not to hold the debates at all, then we must have an army of people so large that we can carry our message door-to-door to every voter, and we must have the money to tell our story through advertising."

Colorado Liberty

A publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Sandra Johnson, Chairman and Publisher

Ron Bain, Editor

Subscription is included in state party membership, which is extended to all those who register to vote as Libertarians, pay membership dues, or both. Paid subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable and send all correspondence to:

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Editorial Policy: This publication serves as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered "on the record." We invite submissions (they cannot be returned) of material to the above address. Content decisions are at the sole discretion of the editor and publisher. Opinions expressed in *Colorado Liberty* are not necessarily the official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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David Bergland

"After the 1980 presidential campaign, the Koch family stopped supporting the LP and moved their support to think tanks such as Cato. The efforts of Cato and other libertarian-oriented think tanks have had great results for the cause of liberty. But the lack of that source of funds was, in the short term, not good for the LP. Murray Rothbard analogized the situation to government inflation of the money supply. While the Koch money was flowing in, LP members were duped into thinking it would always be that way. It was a 'boom.' True grass roots organizing and fund raising programs were not developed. When that funding dried up, we went into a 'bust.' It was not until after the 1984 campaign that the party buckled down in the realization that we would have to do it all on our own."

Gary Sandritter

"So we are winning. Regardless of the vote totals (the more the better, of course), we have already won. The LP is widely recognized as the leading legitimate alternative to the Democrats and Republicans. People know that government doesn't work, and that it's OK to acknowledge that and discuss what to do about it. Mainstream politicians have to face up to the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid bankruptcy. People applauded when Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen called the War on Drugs 'insane.'

"Our membership numbers and contribution base grow every day. That means there will be more talented people to become candidates and to run future campaigns. More money to support those campaigns. More talented, motivated people to do ballot access work, to recruit new members, write letters to the editor, call radio talk shows, to do everything that a smoothly running grass roots organization does to keep growing and to become more effective and influential.

"We still have much more to do. But 1996 has been the best ever, and has already given us much to celebrate."

Colorado Liberty Advertising Rates

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Send camera-ready ad with payment to LPC office, or call Ron Bain, 303-433-9179, about our layout service.

LP of Boulder County Hosting Hemp/Cannabis Legalization Summit in January

Planning is underway for the Hemp/Cannabis Legalization Summit to be held Sunday, Jan. 19th, in Boulder. Former State Senator Lloyd Casey and Boulder County Commissioner Paul Danish have agreed to join a panel discussion of ways Colorado legalization advocates can take advantage of the momentum built up by the November passage of medicinal marijuana initiatives in California and Arizona.

The Legalization Summit, sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, is being organized by Ron Bain, long-time Libertarian activist from Boulder, Denver and the Western Slope. Another panel member will be Laura Kriho (if a Gilpin County judge has not sentenced her to jail time in January), who will discuss the history of hemp/cannabis legalization attempts in Colorado as well as ways that jury nullification can figure into future efforts. Representatives of the successful California and Arizona initiatives will also be invited to explain what they did to make their campaigns succeed.

The meeting will convene at 6 p.m. at the Old Boulder Train Depot, located next to the movie theaters at 30th and Arapahoe.

The event is the first of a series of public outreach meetings being organized by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, which has secured a venue large enough to hold 125 people.

All Coloradans interested in the legalization of industrial, medicinal and/or recreational cannabis are invited to attend the meeting. Discussion will include, but not be limited to, legislative approaches, ballot initiatives, smoke-ins and other civil disobedience, political candidacies, and formation of a political action committee or lobbying/fundraising group.

"I hope this opportunity to get together will result in a serious effort to push forward the legalization agenda in 1997 or 1998," meeting organizer Bain stated. "I also hope the meeting will serve to remind the legalization community that the Libertarian Party is the only statewide organization with the resources and the willingness to take this effort forward."

More details will be available about the Legalization Summit as the date approaches. To obtain that information, call Ron Bain at (303) 443-9179.

Calendar of Events

Special events are in bold type.

December

- 1 Thank the Candidates Dinner, The Macaroni Grill, 9190 Wadsworth Parkway in Westminster, 6 p.m. R.S.V.P. at (303) 473-9655.
- 3 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
- 4 & 18 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center. Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
- 4 LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 720 E. 18th, Denver, 6:30 p.m. Party members are welcome.
- 5 Libertarian Community of JeffCo, Lakewood Public Library, 10200 West 20th Ave., 7 p.m. Two-year planning session.
- 7 **Citizens Opposing the Stadium Tax Organizational Meeting at the home of Bill and Shirley Schley, 2121 Osceola St., Denver, 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 455-6183.**
- 9 & 23 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m. Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
- 10 Denver LP, Knights of Pythias Hall, 1127 South Tejon (at Mississippi), 7:15 p.m. Debate between former State Sen. Lloyd Casey and the DEA's Michael Mapes. Bill Robinson, 758-1086 or 756-8601.
- 10 Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for details.
- 11 Adams County Libertarians, Coco's at Northglenn Mall, 104th & I-25, 7 p.m. Earl Allen, (303) 254-4978.
- 11 & 25 Routt County Common Sense Club, Overlook Lodge, Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jahelka, (970) 879-4127.
- 15 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, business meeting at 5 p.m., outreach meeting at 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
- 16 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Dinner Club, China Dragon Restaurant, 1401 W. Elizabeth, 7 p.m. Mary Margaret, (970) 484-8184.
- 20 San Luis Valley LP Monthly Meeting, Alamosa Inn, 1920 Main St. in Alamosa, dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bob Johnson, (719) 379-2767.
- 26 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

January

- 2 Libertarian Community of JeffCo, Lakewood Public Library, 10200 West 20th Ave., 7 p.m. Two-year planning session.
- 7 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
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- 19 **Hemp/Cannabis Legalization Summit, sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, Old Train Depot, 30th & Arapahoe in Boulder, 6 p.m. Call (303) 443-9179.**
- 20 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Dinner Club, China Dragon Restaurant, 1401 W. Elizabeth, 7 p.m. Mary Margaret, (970) 484-8184.
- 23 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m. Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail any additions or corrections to the LPC office. Changes must be received by the 10th for the following month's issue.



From the Editor:

Oliver North Is No Libertarian

Harry Browne's campaign was one of the finest I've seen a Libertarian candidate conduct, but I was nonetheless dismayed by one recurring factor in the campaign: the frequent mention of Oliver North in Browne's press releases about radio talk show hosts who were favorably disposed to the libertarian cause.

By now everyone has heard the reports from the *San Jose Mercury News* and other newspapers, including the *Denver Post* and the *Boulder Weekly*, detailing how the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Council, contra leaders and Los Angeles area cocaine dealers worked together to finance the contra war effort, thus exposing the inner-city L.A. population to a government-sponsored drug epidemic unprecedented in history.

These events, which are currently being investigated by the Senate Intelligence Committee, occurred during the administration of Ronald Reagan, whose wife Nancy became famous for just saying no to drugs. Reagan also appointed Oliver North head of the National Security Council, and Reagan presided over the biggest round-up and incarceration of non-violent American citizens in the nation's history.

The CIA has admitted to importing cocaine into America at least once as part of an "undercover infiltration" project, and the day before Thanksgiving the *Denver Post* reported that former Contra leaders, including one Adolfo Calero, had admitted to the Senate that they took money in the 1980s from L.A. and Miami drug dealers.

A mid-November edition of the *Boulder Weekly* contained a story headlined "Let's Make A Deal," by Dennis Bernstein and Robert Knight:

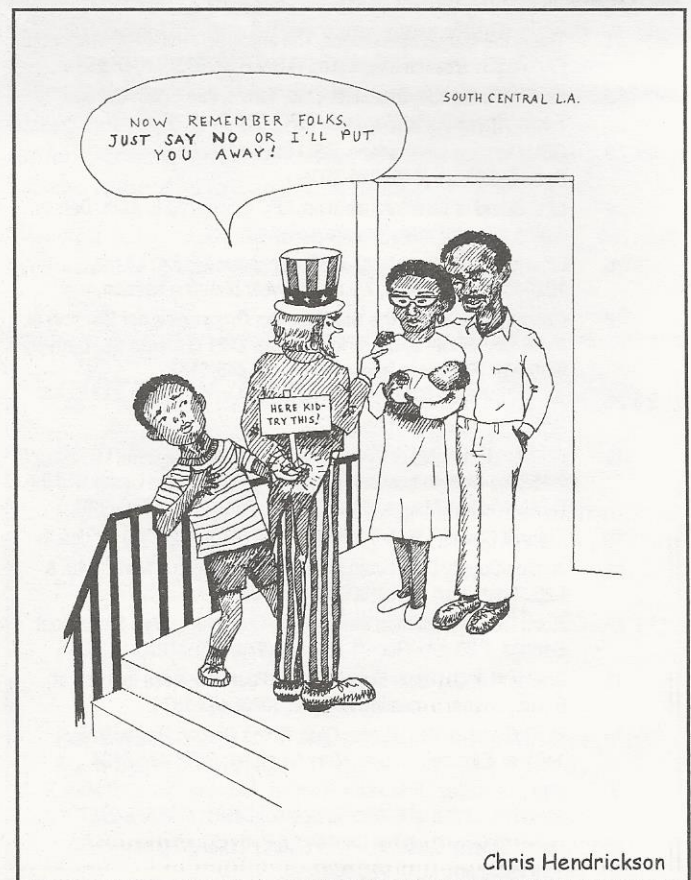
Celerino Castillo III, a 15-year veteran of the Drug Enforcement Administration, observed first-hand a drug-smuggling operation at Llopango airport in El Salvador in the mid-80s. The military facility was under the direct control of the CIA and Lt. Col. Oliver North during the colonel's heady days at the National Security Council. But it was on Jan. 14, 1986, the day he met then-Vice President George Bush at a Guatemalan embassy reception, that Castillo became truly concerned about what he had witnessed. The lead DEA agent in Central America, Castillo tried to tell Bush that "something funny" was going on at Llopango. "But he just shook my hand, smiled and walked away from me," Castillo recently recalled in an interview. Later that same day, he says, Bush met with Oliver North and Contra leader Adolfo Calero. Castillo went on to gather evidence that was formally documented in a Feb. 14, 1989 memo to his Guatemala-based DEA supervisor. He detailed how known traffickers with multiple DEA files used Hangars Four and Five in Llopango for drug smuggling. Despite their backgrounds, asserted Castillo in the memo, the traffickers had obtained U.S. visas. Furthermore, he said, "The CIA owned one hangar, and the National Security Council ran the other. There is no doubt that they [agents from the U.S.

government] were running large quantities of cocaine into the U.S. to support the Contras," Castillo said. "We saw the cocaine and we saw the boxes full of money."

So Oliver North is a drug smuggler. He also does not believe in the principle of self-determination as detailed in the Declaration of Independence. North's actions indicate that he thinks the executive branch, rather than Congress, should be able to declare and wage war, contrary to the U.S. Constitution. And North is a hypocrite who thinks the end justifies the means, that it's OK to import cocaine for the very same federal government which is waging an unconstitutional war against all the citizens of this nation in order to harass the one or two percent who use cocaine.

The general public already has a hard enough time understanding the principled Libertarian stand on the Insane War on Drugs; it doesn't help at all for our presidential nominee to be cozying up to an unprincipled criminal whose two-faced stance on the Drug War confuses even more people. Let's not lose sight of our principles when seeking press coverage or endorsements from famous people—there are some people that Libertarians should not be associated with, and the prison-bound Oliver North is one of them.

Ron Bain, Editor





To the Editor:

Lies About Marijuana Turn on the Liars

Dear Editor:

Children are lied to about marijuana from a young age. When they are older and see the lie, some believe they have been lied to about hard drugs, and try them. Now we've really got a problem. Idiots. And in case it has escaped anyone's attention, we now have a new heroin epidemic going on.

In 10,000 years marijuana has not caused one death. The real entry level drugs are not so safe. Alcohol kills 80,000 per year, while tobacco kills 400,000 per year in the U.S. alone. There is no reasonable discussion in the War On Drugs. Hysterical rhetoric is honored in place of science.

"There is no reasonable discussion in the War On Drugs. Hysterical rhetoric is honored in place of science."

As political leaders harvest America's children as living sacrifices for a prison industry, many more simply drop out and look for answers elsewhere. Bill Clinton called what's happening a "crisis of faith." He's right. But more police power will not make up for a failure of what the kids are taught.

Marijuana has been proven to be both safe and useful, yet lies and police force continue. Marijuana is lied about with no distinction from hard drugs like heroin, cocaine and speed. The kids are not so stupid that they don't notice. And many people refuse reasonable dialogue with intelligent adults over marijuana, choosing instead to hide behind the issue of children doing drugs. But know this—prohibition feeds drugs to children through the black market with no conscience.

As teachers and police lie to children about marijuana's potency, effect on immune systems, making people stupid or lazy, or marijuana causing violent behavior or criminal behavior, they destroy authority's credibility about hard drugs, social acceptance and future choices. Only by the firm foundation of truthful education can we build a future for the kids. The slipping sand of lies and hate for our own children is the sin of a nation.

Rev. Michael Domangue,
Sacred Herb Church
Boulder

Religious Right Wants Control, Not Freedom

To the Editor:

Shawn Mitchell's arguments in favor of Amendment Two and against assisted suicide fall flat on their face on several accounts. First, Amendment Two was clearly an example of a group of hate-mongering bigots attempting to use the state government to impose their religious and moral beliefs on local communities by interfering with the gay community and their supporters' access to government.

I have frequently promoted the Libertarian Party to people in the gay community as an alternative to the Republican Party, which is clearly hostile to alternative lifestyles of any sort, and the socialist-liberal-Democrat-voting-block mentality which pervades the gay community. It was a disappointment when the LP chose not to take a stand on Amendment Two. It is even worse for the Party to waste space in the newsletter on an article such as Mitchell's. Good copy must be hard to find.

As for assisted suicide, or suicide of any sort, the Constitution guarantees each individual the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. (Editor's Note: Actually, it's the Declaration of Independence.) The right to life includes the right to terminate it, if one so chooses.

Returning to the Amendment Two issue, the LP should realize that the religious right is more interested in controlling people's lives than it is in freedom. When Ron Paul recently won the primary in Texas, he did it without their support. *The Spotlight* ran an article on Ron Paul's victory which declared him a "Populist." Nowhere in the article did it mention that he is a libertarian or even that he was the Libertarian Party's candidate.

"The Libertarian Party needs to steer clear of the social agendas of oppression promoted by religious zealots of any persuasion."

A frequent slogan in favor of Amendment Two was "no special rights for homosexuals." Strangely enough, these people remain silent about the special rights and privileges currently enjoyed by monogamous heterosexual married couples, such as tax breaks, medical insurance coverage for spouses, lower automobile insurance rates, welfare, subsidies—the list goes on.

The Libertarian Party needs to steer clear of the social agendas of oppression promoted by religious zealots of any persuasion.

Mike Doty
Tavares, Florida

Erickson Leads LPC Field, continued from page 1

1992 totals, when presidential candidate Andre Marrou got 291,000 votes, or about .25% of the the popular vote.

Browne spent \$3 million compared, for example, to the \$30 million in taxpayer dollars alone spent by Reform Party candidate Ross Perot, who received 7.8 million votes, or about 8% of the popular vote. Perot was down from 19% in 1992, and it's a sure bet that some of Browne's 63% increase over Marrou came from disenchanted 1992 supporters of Perot.

"I think we ran the best \$3 million presidential campaign you can run, with the best presidential candidate," said Sharon Ayres, Browne's campaign manager. "But we've run up against the limits of what's possible with a \$3 million campaign. If we're going to compete more successfully in the year 2000, we're going to need a lot more members, more resources, and more money."

Browne was also contending this year with other alternative party challengers besides Perot, such as Ralph Nader of the Green Party, John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party and Howard Phillips of the US Taxpayer's Party, a factor which diffused the anti-Demopublican vote. However, Browne defeated all of the third party challengers except Perot nationally; in Colorado, Nader had such a strong showing that he knocked Browne into fifth place.

Outweighing the disappointment Colorado Libertarians might feel over Browne's local showing should be excitement over the outstanding results posted by RTD candidates Brian Erickson and Doug Anderson (22.6% in RTD District A) and Lake County Commissioner candidate Carol Hill, who made it a three-way partisan race in Leadville and surrounding environs with 22.9% of the vote.

"One of the things that I feel good about personally is that Harry (Browne) only got 38 votes here and I got 544—the incumbent won because he was a Democrat and I got 22% despite my party affiliation," Hill commented, noting that Lake County traditionally votes Democratic.

In 1995, Hill scored significantly in a Leadville municipal election for city council. "I've certainly got a solid core of supporters here, not necessarily Libertarians." Lake County also defeated a school bond issue and a de-Bruicing measure.

Erickson was running in a non-partisan race, but he did not mince words about Libertarian Party principles and positions during his campaign. "I talked about the principles pretty openly," he said.

When Erickson got the chance, he talked about bringing free market principles to the metro area transportation market, meeting customer needs instead of political needs. In letters to the editor, he proposed abolishing the RTD sales tax. "It seemed to hit a chord," Erickson commented.

Former Denver Election Commissioner Doug Anderson was modest about his 22.6% in RTD District A, but his low-key campaign seemed to have its intended effect: incumbent Phil Anderson came in third, trailing behind Doug Anderson and victor Jack McCroskey. David Aitken, who was also running in District A, received 7.6%, trailing all other candidates. Nonetheless, this was a personal best for Aitken, eclipsing the results of many prior candidacies for state house and governor.

Four Libertarian candidates were running for the Colorado House of Representatives in 1996, with Dan Cochran scoring a very significant 7.5% in District 51 and Kevin Wilkerson placing third in District 11 with 5.4%. Cochran spent a lot of time campaigning door-to-door in his district, garnering 24% of the vote in his own precinct. Cochran spent just under \$3,000 and got almost 2,000 votes.

Wilkerson thought he might have been helped by Judd Ptak's 1994 run in an overlapping state senate district, where Ptak got a very similar 5.5% of the vote. Wilkerson spent \$1,800 on print ads and movie theater promotions, gaining press coverage in the *Boulder Daily Camera*, the *Colorado Daily* and the *Denver Post*, the latter naming him a "Libertarian firebrand."

Doug Newman got 5% of the vote in Colorado House District 42, spending \$250 and obtaining ballot access with 418 signatures; he got 667 votes. Chuck Wright, running in Colorado House District 13, received only 3.6% despite a last-minute barrage of advertising and mailings that cost him \$6,000.

The Libertarian Party had 191 candidates running for Congress in 1996, the most of any third party. There were 21 Libertarian candidates for Senate and 170 Libertarian candidates for House of Representatives, including Richard Combs in the 1st Congressional District and W. Earl Allen in the 2nd Congressional District. Combs got 2.9% of the vote, placing third, and Allen got 2.2% of the vote, placing fourth.

All in all, it was one of the best efforts ever put forth by the Libertarian Party of Colorado, and congratulations are in order all around.

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Let's Try Safe Streets Instead of Drug War

by Terry W. Donze

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others." — William Allen White

A recent front page headline in a major Denver daily newspaper stated "Drug Court drowning" (May 28, 1996, *Rocky Mountain News*). We are seeing yet another sign of our failing Drug War, another fruitless effort in society's vain attempt at legislating morality through Prohibition. We tried this in the 1920s—worked great then, didn't it?

Of course the Drug Court is drowning. Over 60 percent of today's prison population is there on non-violent drug-related offenses. We would rather have long mandatory sentences for drug convictions while hard-core murders and rapists are paroled for reasons of overcrowding. Every drug offender imprisoned results in the release of one violent criminal, who then commits an average of 40 robberies, seven assaults, 110 burglaries and 25 auto thefts.

We can double the police resources available for crime prevention without any additional government spending simply by ending Prohibition.

We teach our children about drugs through Drug Awareness Resistance Education programs. Seems there is more Drug Awareness than Resistance being taught in these programs, when 10-year-old girls boast they know how to make crack cocaine and 12-year-old boys bring "joints" of nutmeg to school to impress their friends, admitting they learned it from the D.A.R.E. program. It reminds one of the 1960s when we started teaching sex in the government schools in order to prevent teen pregnancies.

Odd that most violent drug-related crimes are committed by addicts attempting to get money to pay for their overpriced illegal habit, while few commit crimes when intoxicated. And we are teaching our children how to get high through a program that is proven ineffective at reducing youthful drug abuse. The Justice Department's own \$350,000 study, which it tried to suppress, concluded that the D.A.R.E. program is a waste of time, effort, energy, and money, and was—at best—ineffective at reducing drug use by children.

What we have gained from the Drug War pales in comparison to what we have lost. Unconstitutional searches and confisca-

tion of property without criminal charges being brought, much less a conviction, loss of firearms use for defense in the name of crime control, total fear in some parts of the city to venture out at night. We are all "suspects," subject to random urine tests, highway check points, and spying into personal finances. Just doing business with cash is enough to make you suspect.

Just as alcohol prohibition gave us Al Capone, the Mafia, and a 70 percent increase in the murder rates, the Drug War has given us the Crips, the Bloods, drive-by shootings and a doubling of the murder rate. Prohibition puts innocent lives at risk. Just ask the widow of Donald Scott, killed in an illegal attempt to seize his property on false drug charges. America is becoming a police state because of the War on Drugs.

Prohibition puts your property at risk. To support their artificially costly habits, drug addicts are committing 25 percent of all auto thefts, 40 percent of all robberies and assaults, and 50 percent of all burglaries and larcenies. Nearly half of all police resources are devoted to stopping drug trafficking, instead of preventing violent crime.

We can double the police resources available for crime prevention without any additional government spending simply by ending Prohibition. Ending Prohibition is only one of the five points of Operation Safe Streets, the Libertarian Party's solution to the wave of violent crime pervading our cities. This approach is smart, compassionate and tough: protect victims' rights and make criminals pay restitution; get tough on real crime by reducing the number of violent criminals at large on our streets by making violent offenders serve their entire sentences (rather than being released because of mandatory drug prison overcrowding); defend the most effective crime deterrent available, the private ownership of guns; address the root causes of crime, which are government programs that breed criminals by crushing opportunity for individuals on the lower rungs of the socioeconomic ladder; and, end Prohibition.

This practical, caring, people-centered approach focuses on personal responsibility and freedom. It won't make the world a perfect place, but it will create a better, freer society for everyone. It really is the only way to help make our streets safe again.

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Paladin Press Wins 1st Amendment Case

by Jon Ford, *Paladin Press Staff*

On August 30, a federal district judge dismissed a Maryland lawsuit that would have held Boulder-based Paladin Press liable for a macabre contract killing that took the lives of a Maryland mother, her disabled son, and his nurse.

Plaintiffs—representing the families of the victims—tried to establish a causal link between the publication of a book detailing how “hit men” ply their trade and the Maryland murders. The wrongful death and survival actions were filed against Paladin Press and its president, Peter Lund, after Lawrence Horn hired James Perry to kill his wife, Mildred Horn, their eight-year-old blind and quadriplegic son, Trevor, and Trevor’s nurse, Janice Saunders.

Lawrence Horn is serving life in prison without possibility of parole for hiring Perry to do the deed; Perry is on death row for his act. Horn was looking to inherit \$1.7 million that his son had won in a medical malpractice suit

After attorneys for Paladin Press filed a motion for summary judgment, asking the judge to decide the case on its merits prior to a jury trial, U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Williams Jr. dismissed the action in its entirety. He cited a case against rock star Ozzie Osbourne, in which a plaintiff tried

unsuccessfully to prove that the singer’s lyrics led to a suicide. In both cases, Williams concluded, no words were written to compel “action at any specific time, much less immediately.”

Several classes of speech receive limited or no First Amendment protection, including obscenity, fighting words, libel, commercial speech, and words likely to incite imminent lawless action. Incitement was the only class of restricted speech that could possibly have supported the plaintiffs’ claims.

In finding no liability, the court reaffirmed time-honored principles of free speech outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, the seminal First Amendment case handed down in 1969 that allows states to punish speech only if the speaker intends imminent lawless action.

**“We will stand up for the
First Amendment on any
grounds, at any cost.”**

The court minced no words in finding that the Paladin Press publication *Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors* is protected under the First Amendment, stating, “The book does not cross that line between permissible advocacy and impermissible incitation to crime or violence.”

First Amendment advocates across the nation were pleased with the court’s reasoning. “As outrageous as this book is on its face,” said John Seigenthaler, chairman of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, “the court saw quite clearly that it was not written words that caused Lawrence Horn to hire James Perry to kill three people.”

The plaintiffs’ attorney, Howard Siegel of Rockville, MD, vowed immediately after Judge Williams’ decision to pursue the case in appeal.

“We’ll go beyond the Supreme Court, if that’s what it takes. I do not have one scintilla of a feeling that this won’t eventually go to trial. Peter Lund is an abuser of the First Amendment, a guy who sits on the sidelines telling others how to murder, and he does it for profit.”

Calling Siegel “an abuser of the legal system,” Lund pledged \$400,000 to defend Paladin Press against the appeal.

“They think because we’re a small operation, we’ll eventually get tired of this and settle out of court,” Lund said. “They are very sadly mistaken. We will stand up for the First Amendment on any grounds, at any cost.”

Paladin Press has sold approximately 13,000 copies of *Hit Man* since its publication in 1983. Perry allegedly obtained the book more than a year before committing the murders in March 1993.

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Affiliate Corner

Libertarian Community of Jefferson County

The Libertarian Community of Jefferson County has not only changed its name, but also its approach to accomplishing its mission.

To promote the development of a libertarian culture, the JeffCo group will identify high-return projects to work on and the requirements necessary to achieve them. No individual will be delegated the permanent role of project leader, but the individuals working on a particular project will designate a spokesperson or team leader for that project. The team will bear the responsibility for accomplishing the project, and will be accountable to the group as a whole for success or failure.

"We are hoping that this experiment will yield good results as libertarians become committed to making things happen through involvement in plans that they have personally created," stated Group Leader Jerry Hatch.

The Libertarian Community of Jefferson County now meets at the Lakewood Public Library, 10200 West 20th Street, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, beginning Dec. 5th.

Hatch also extended his group's thanks to the candidates who appeared with Vice Presidential candidate Jo Jorgensen at the Arvada Center on October 15th: U.S. Congressional candidates Richard Combs and Earl Allen; State House candidates Kevin Wilkerson and Doug Newman; Lake County Commissioner candidate Carol Hill; RTD Board candidates David Aitken, David Zimmerman and Brian Erickson.

Denver Libertarian Party

Denver Libertarian Bill Robinson has organized a debate between former State Senator Lloyd Casey and the DEA's Michael Mapes to be held at 7:15 p.m. on Dec. 10th at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 1127 South Tejon St. (at Mississippi Avenue).

The debate topic is as follows: "Resolved: All legal barriers against the commercial and medical use of Cannabis Sativa should be repealed."

Sen. Casey was the Colorado legislator who introduced Senate Bill 67, the industrial hemp legalization bill, which passed the

Colorado Senate but died in the House in March 1996 after lobbying by the DEA. Mapes was a leading spokesman for the opposition, the federal government.

Other topics to be discussed include the passage of citizen initiatives in California and Arizona that legalize cannabis for medical reasons, and how hard the federal government will try to fight states that alter their cannabis laws.

To reserve a meal (Chinese or Sagitario's burritos), call Bill Robinson at 758-1066 or 756-6601.

Pitkin County's Liberty Coalition

Pitkin County recorded the highest percentage of votes for the presidential ticket of Harry Browne and Jo Jorgensen, with 1.84% of county voters choosing the Libertarian ticket.

Statewide, Browne received .82% of Colorado's popular vote. Four other mountain counties—San Miguel, Gilpin, Lake and Clear Creek—rounded out the top five Colorado counties with the highest vote percentage for Browne.

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Random Notes

Home Schooling Up 201% in Colorado

According to the *Boulder Planet* newspaper, the Colorado Department of Education reported in late November that the number of parents home schooling their children in Colorado has increased by 201% over the past five years.

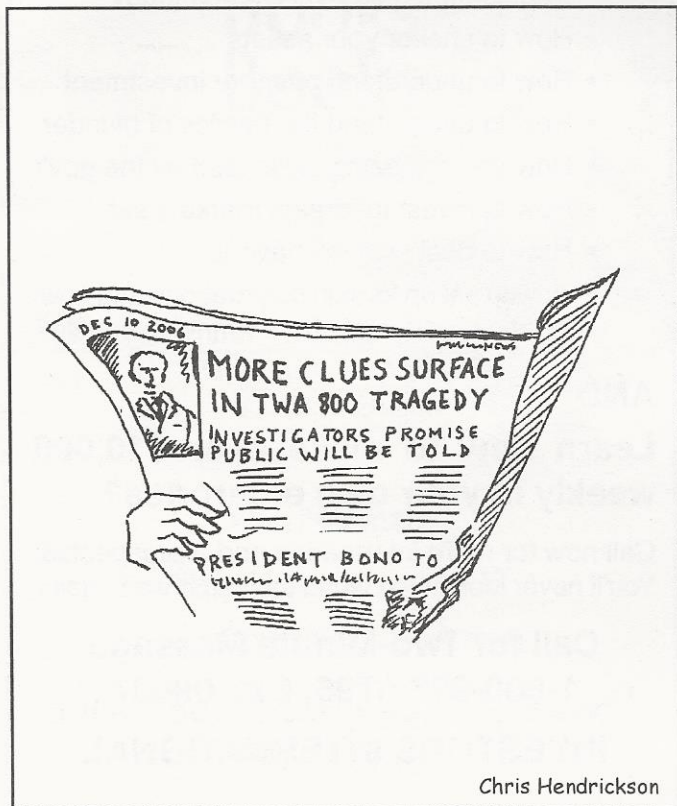
"More and more parents are pulling their children out of private or public classrooms to meet their children's individual needs and interests in a way one teacher overseeing 25 children cannot," stated the article written by Elizabeth Mundwiller.

"Home educators say they enjoy being freed from the typical 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. school days and three Rs curriculum," Mundwiller wrote in the Nov. 20-26 edition of the *Boulder Planet*. "Moreover, with homeschooling, evening homework isn't necessary, and experiences like volunteering often count as education."

Kudos to Campaign and Outreach Volunteers

Kudos from the Libertarian Party of Colorado to all the individuals who helped make 1996 the most successful overall election year for Libertarians ever.

The Libertarian Community of Jefferson County extends kudos to the following people, who helped distribute 4,000 Harry Browne brochures and 1,100 Earl Allen flyers: Chuck Banks; Sara Wilson; Grant Johnson; Jerry Hatch; Gary Sandritter; Terry Donze; Tom Goonan; Betty Rose Smith; Jay Harper; Gregg Miller; and Randy Zimmerman, teacher at SciTech Charter School who recruited 25 students to distribute 700 brochures.



Chris Hendrickson

The LCJC also thanks the following speakers, who presented the libertarian message to more than 600 students in Jefferson County schools: **Tom Goonan; Grant John;** and Student Outreach Team Leader **Sara Wilson.**

Campaigns Director Doug Anderson had kudos for the following Election Day volunteers: **William Gibson; Lawrence Runn; Joann Fallis; Warren Cruz; Rob Gilmore; Howard Lambert; Glenn Pinkerton;** and, **David Bryant.**

New Metro-level Organization Forming

Chairs from the Denver, JeffCo, Boulder and Aurora affiliates met recently to discuss the formation of a metro Denver LP organization. The new organization would free up the local affiliates to perform as strictly political organizations by taking over most of their outreach and education functions.

Ideas for metro-level tasks include: 1) outreach events—perhaps quarterly, with real name speakers, followed by a genuine social event; 2) internal education—"how to" workshops and such; 3) staffing fairs and other events (gun shows, hemp rallies, etc.); 4) monitoring DRCOG; and 5) metro-wide politics—the stadium tax, RTD machinations, etc.

The group meets again in December, and hopes to be focused and organized by early 1997. If you'd like to participate, call Bert Wiener at 934-3245 or Doug Newman at 369-3809.

Thank you!

I am deeply appreciative of all the help I received for the Combs for Congress campaign. My heartfelt thanks go to:

David Aitken	Clint Jones
Doug Anderson	Joe Kirn
Michele Bethke	Geoffrey Lloyd
David Bryant	Bruce Meyer
Catherine Burgess	Jim Misa
Peter Burgess	Brad Rebers
Michael Christopher	Bill Robinson
Jim Fox	David Segal
Norman Fulton	BetteRose Smith
Tom Hartung	Wayne White
Christine Hill	Bert Wiener

I apologize if I've forgotten anyone. My record-keeping leaves something to be desired.

Richard G. Combs

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New Member Info 1-800-682-1776
LP Nat'l Newsline 1-900-4Libert
\$1.95/minute (454-2378)
Election results, Congress Watch, LP news

Libertarian Party of Colorado

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CSU Campus Libertarians
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Red Rocks Community College
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UCCS Campus Libertarians
Robert Cramer (719) 637-8078

University of Southern Colorado
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2943 Vine Street, Denver CO 80205

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Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Doug
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Carol Stuckey Hill (719) 486-3130
424 East 11th, Leadville CO 80461

U.S. Congressional District 4
Randy Fitzgerald (970) 223-6025
413 Skysail Lane, Fort Collins CO 80525

U.S. Congressional District 5
Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Doug
Anderson at (303) 698-2651.

U.S. Congressional District 6
Bob Hogan (303) 978-9803
38 Blue Sage, Littleton CO 80123

If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local
contact and you'd consider being one,
please contact Affiliates Director Deb Bishop.
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Note: All Colorado residents joining the national Libertarian Party (LPUS) automatically receive a dues-paid membership in the Libertarian Party of Colorado. LPUS members must sign the membership pledge below.

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